

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, ELAB, EFIN, TU
SUBJECT: EMPLOYERS' CONFEDERATION CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT
PERFORMANCE ON ECONOMIC STABILITY

1. THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS (TISK), HALIT NARIN, ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT AUGUST 31 STRONGLY CRITICIZING THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT FOR ITS FAILURE OVER THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS TO BRING SOLUTIONS TO TURKEY'S ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS. THE SEVERE OVERALL CRISIS WHICH TURKEY HAS SUFFERED STILL CONTINUES, HE SAID, WHILE THE FORECASTED GROWTH IN EXPORT EARNINGS AND WORKERS REMITTANCES HAVE NOT BEEN REALIZED. THE BUDGET HAS NOT BEEN SET ON A BALANCED COURSE BECAUSE INCOME SOURCES ARE INSUFFICIENT AND THE TREASURY IS FORCED TO MAKE EXTRA PAYMENTS FOR GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZATION OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRIES, HE CONTINUED. HIGH INTEREST RATE CREDITS AND RISING COSTS ENDANGER THE SURVIVAL OF MANY ENTERPRISES, AND INFLATION IS CLIMBING RAPIDLY DUE TO INSUFFICIENT COUNTER MEASURES. UNEMPLOYMENT IS GROWING BEYOND 3 MILLION AND HAS REACHED A DANGEROUS STAGE
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FOR TURKISH SOCIETY.

2. NARIN EMPHASIZED THAT HIS PURPOSE IN SPEAKING OUT WAS TO PROVIDE A REALISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT BOTTLENECKS SO THAT SOLUTIONS WOULD BE FOUND TO SAVE THE COUNTRY. HE CRITICIZED THE "SOCIAL AGREEMENT" BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND TURK-IS (THE CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS)

CONCERNING WAGES FOR WORKERS IN THE STATE ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES AND NOTED THAT PRIVATE INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SERVANTS HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN PROPER CONSIDERATION. FINALLY, HE DEPLORED THE GROWTH OF IDEOLOGICAL CENTERS WITHIN STATE AGENCIES AND INDUSTRIES, LEADING TO CIVIL CONFLICT AND ANARCHY.

3. NARIN'S STATEMENT ATTRACTED WIDESPREAD ATTENTION BECAUSE IT CAME AT A TIME WHEN TURKISH CONSULTATIONS WITH THE IMF WERE BEING HIGHLIGHTED IN THE PRESS AND BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST SUCH COMPREHENSIVE CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE COMING FROM A PROMINENT PRIVATE SECTOR INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION. CONSERVATIVE EDITORIALISTS HAVE CHARACTERIZED NARIN'S STATEMENT AS A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PAY HEED. OTHERS, WHILE ADMITTING THAT MORE ECONOMIC MEASURES ARE NEEDED, POINTED OUT THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD BEGIN ASSESSING ITS OWN PLACE IN IMPLEMENTING STABILITY MEASURES AND START TAKING CONCRETE STEPS TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT IN THESE DIFFICULT DAYS.

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